

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

Massachusetts Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

t.617.496.5100
f.617.495.8550

August 30, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management
Government Information and International Security
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Attn: Ana Shopen

Dear Chairman Coburn:

Derek Bok has asked me to respond to your letter of July 27th seeking information regarding federally sponsored research at Harvard University. I am pleased to provide this response and would be happy to answer any further questions you or your staff may have directly.

In responding I want to first point out that I do so solely on behalf of Harvard University and not for our affiliated teaching hospitals. While Harvard enjoys strong relationships with our 14 affiliated teaching hospitals through faculty appointments, they are all in fact separate organizations and handle any lobbying activity in which they engage independently.

Harvard University has for decades been a critical partner with the federal government in conducting sponsored research that has broadened the scientific knowledge base for society, has improved public health and well-being through the creation of new therapies, and has contributed greatly to our nation's economic vitality through the development of breakthrough inventions and technologies. Universities like Harvard perform this research while simultaneously training the next generation of educators, doctors, researchers, architects, ministers, dentists, engineers, business leaders, public servants and other innovators. This partnership has helped sustain Harvard as a leading research institution and this self-renewing system of innovation has earned American higher education the admiration of the world.

As you will see below, Harvard University does conduct lobbying activities on its behalf, and we do engage outside consultants as necessary to provide guidance in that endeavor. However, we do not seek " earmark " appropriations and do not engage any outside lobbyist to do so on our behalf.

In academic year 2005, Harvard University received \$507.9 million from the federal government in sponsored research funding (The figures for 2000 through 2004 respectively were \$328.6 million, \$348.7 million, \$394.1million, \$412.7 million, \$468.3 million). These research dollars came largely in response to over 3000 investigator initiated grant proposals to federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Defense and NASA that were subjected to a vigorous peer review process.

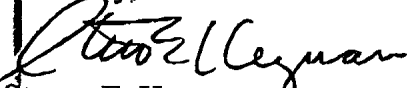
It has been Harvard's view that the nation's primary method of distributing limited federal research dollars should be a competitive peer review process. Harvard believes that a robust peer review system best serves the national interest by producing the highest quality research. In furtherance of that philosophy, Harvard does not seek direct appropriations or "earmarks" from Congress and does not hire lobbyists either to secure Congressional earmarks or to attain familiarity with the opportunities that may exist to do so.

As a large research institution, Harvard has significant interests that intersect with the federal government on many levels, and as a consequence does conduct lobbying activities. As a major charitable and educational research institution with approximately 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 17,000 faculty and staff, and campus facilities comprising more than five hundred buildings and approximately 21.5 million square feet of space, with attendant needs for energy consumption, infrastructure maintenance, and the provision of cutting edge laboratory, computing and communications technologies, the range of federal issues of interest to Harvard are substantial. They include, among other issues proposals and policies that impact student financial aid, education policy, international exchange, telecommunications and privacy, charitable giving, the conduct of research, biodefense and global health initiatives, environmental regulation, immigration and intellectual property matters.

In Washington and Cambridge, we maintain a small staff that is responsible for managing our interactions with Congress and the executive branch on these and other issues. Our staff are registered under the Congressional Lobby Disclosure Act and contacts made regarding legislation are reported twice annually to Congress in our Lobbying Disclosure report. Because of the complexity of many of these issues we do engage knowledgeable consultants for assistance in understanding and responding to various trends in Washington of importance to higher education generally and Harvard University specifically. Any lobbyists we engage also report their relationship with Harvard as required under the LDA. Much of Harvard's research related lobbying activities are geared towards increasing the overall federal investment in the major agencies to which Harvard faculty and those around the country compete for funding, or are associated with policy and program initiatives related to the administration and conduct of research.

I hope that this letter provides the information you are seeking. Of course, I would be happy to answer any specific questions you might have regarding this or related issues or you can call Kevin Casey, Senior Director of Federal and State Relations at 617-495-4955.

Sincerely,



Steven E. Hyman

Cc: Kevin Casey
Steve Hyman
Elizabeth Mora
Robert Iuliano
Alan J. Stone